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Agenda item 154
United Nations Decade of International Law

Netherlands and Russian Federation: draft resolution

Outcome of the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the commitment of the United Nations and its Member States to the adherence to and the development of international law as a basis for conducting international relations,

Recognizing the historical importance of the 1899 first International Peace Conference for the rule of international law, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the development and codification of international law and the practice of multilateral diplomacy,

Recalling that, in accordance with its previous resolutions,[1] the centennial of the first International Peace Conference coincides with the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law and could be considered as a third international peace conference,

Recalling also that the United Nations Decade of International Law will be closed at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 17 November 1999,

Recalling with gratitude the initiatives[2] for the celebration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference by the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of the Netherlands with regard to the themes of the Conference: development of international law relating to disarmament and arms control, humanitarian law and laws of war, and peaceful settlement of disputes,

Recalling further that these initiatives called for, *inter alia*, discussions on these themes on the basis of in-depth reports at the global, regional and national levels by intergovernmental, governmental, diplomatic, academic and civil society[3] experts at

[1] Resolutions 44/23, 51/157, 52/153 and 53/100.

[2] Resolutions 51/159, 52/154 and 53/99; A/C.6/52/3, A/C.6/53/10, A/C.6/53/11.

[3] cf. The Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice in the Twenty-first Century (A/54/98, annex).

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conferences, seminars and other meetings as well as through the Internet, to be reported on to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fourth session,

Noting that the general outcome of these discussions was that, while progressive development and codification of international law remains important, the furtherance of the rule of international law would best be served by the faithful compliance of States with existing international obligations, focusing more on the timely interpretation of these obligations,

Noting also, that the year 1999 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,

Noting further that the Permanent Court of Arbitration was established as a result of the first International Peace Conference in 1899,

Convinced that the legacies of the first International Peace Conference have been enhanced by the centennial initiatives and by the plenary meeting of the General Assembly at the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

1. *Takes note with interest* of the outcome of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference, reported by the co-hosts, the Governments of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation;[4]

2. *Commends* all who, through their efforts, wisdom and expertise, contributed to the success of the celebration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference;

3. *Commends* the International Committee of the Red Cross for its work to promote adherence to and compliance with the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and other instruments of international humanitarian law;

4. *Congratulates* the Permanent Court of Arbitration on its one hundredth anniversary;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for bringing the outcome of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference to the attention of the relevant international forums;

6. *Invites* States, organs of the United Nations, international organizations and other relevant international forums to take note of the outcome of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to consider, where appropriate:

(a) Giving attention to the outcome of the thematic discussions within the sphere of their respective competencies or mandates;

(b) Making use in the future of the format of the discussions of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference in accordance with any relevant rules and procedures;

7. *Invites*:

(a) The Governments of the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of the Netherlands to file the records of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference in their archives and to provide access to these records to interested parties;

(b) All who contributed to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference to file their records in this respect with either of these Governments.

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[4] A/54/381, annex.